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AN EXHIBITION OF REPRODUCTIONS

VINCENT VANGOGH

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VINCENT VAN GOGH was born in the parsonage of Groot-Zundert on 30th March, 1853. He grew up in the company of a number of younger brothers and sisters, a particularly close friendship existing between himself and his brother Theo, four years his junior. His first employment, at the age of sixteen, was with the Paris art dealers, Goupil and Co. He worked at various of their branches, including the one in London, but constant disputes with his employers and his criticism of customers led to his dismissal in 1876. For a time he worked in England as an usher in schools at Ramsgate and Isleworth but he soon returned to his father's house and after a short spell of employment in a book-shop he began to study theology with the intention of becoming a pastor like his father

He abandoned this plan and determined to become a preacher on his own account. His first mission was with the miners at the Borinage where he worked with such excessive zeal that the religious body to which he was attached felt obliged, for his own sake, to recall him. Despite his great enthusiasm he knew himself to be a poor preacher and it was at this time that he seriously began to think of painting. After a period of employment as a lay preacher from which he was dismissed, he lived the life of a tramp in complete misery and poverty. It was then that he found his true vocation as an artist.

He began to take lessons and was supported by an allowance from his brother Theo. For a short time he studied at the Antwerp Academy but left after quarrels with his teachers and went to join Theo in Paris in 1886. There he met many of the leading Impressionists and was influenced by their work. In February 1888 he left suddenly for Arles and here he painted and drew with feverish energy.

He moved into the Yellow House and dreamed of making it a meeting place for artists but his invitation to this "House of Friends" was accepted only by Gauguin. Differences of opinion led to frequent quarrels culminating in the dispute after which Vincent cut off his own ear. Following this he spent two weeks in hospital, but his increasing hallucinations made it impossible for him to be at liberty. He went to the asylum at St. Rémy and here he created some of his best works.

Ironically, at this time came the first indications of public recognition; an appreciative article on his work appeared in the *Mercure de France*. He was constantly tormented by fresh crises and at Theo's suggestion moved to Auvers-sur-Oise where he came under the care of Dr. Gachet. This was in the spring of 1890. On 27th July he borrowed a gun and shot himself. He died two days later and within six months his brother Theo was dead. They are buried together at Auvers.

THE CATALOGUE

1 Moulin de la Galette. *Paris period*

2 Fritillaries in a Copper Vase. *Paris period, summer 1886*

3 A Field of Corn. *Paris period*

4 The 'Restaurant de la Sirene' at Joinville. *Paris period*

5 Self Portrait. *Paris period, 1887*

6 The Langlois Bridge in Arles. *Arles period, April 1888*

7 The Draw-bridge. *Arles period, May 1888*

8 Still Life. *Arles period, May 1888*

9 View of Arles with Irises in the Foreground. *Arles period, May 1888*

10 Boats on the Beach. *Arles period, Les Saintes-Maries, June 1888*

11 View of Les Saintes-Maries. *Arles period, June 1888*

12 Market Gardens. *Arles period, June 1888*

13 Sunflowers. *Arles period, August 1888*

14 Boats at Anchor. *Arles period, August 1888*

15 The Gypsies. *Arles period, August 1888*

16 Vincent's House in Arles. *Arles period, September 1888*

17 The Sower. *Arles period, October 1888*

18 Portrait of Armand Roulin. *Arles period, November 1888*

19 Portrait of Armand Roulin. *Arles period, November 1888*

20 Portrait of the Painter with a Pipe. *Arles period, January-February 1889*

21 Landscape in Arles. *Arles period, April 1889*

22 The Garden of the Hospital in Arles. *Arles period, May 1889*

23 Portrait of the Artist with a Mutilated Ear. *Arles period, January 1889*

24 The Cypresses. *Saint-Rémy period, June 1889*

25 Green Corn. *Saint-Rémy period, June 1889*

26 Yellow Corn. *Saint-Rémy period, October 1889*

27 Pietà, after Delacroix. *Saint-Rémy period, September, 1889*

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30 The Road with Cypresses. *Saint-Rémy period, May 1890*

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35 Portrait of Dr. Gachet. *Auvers period. June 1890*

36 The Plain of Auvers. *Auvers period, June 1890*

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38 The 'Vessenots' at Auvers. *Auvers period, July 1890*